

Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association

Fall General Membership Meeting

October 22, 2009; 7:00 pm

Pine Ridge Elementary School

Board Members present: Mike Lovely, Kevin Desrosiers, Martie King, Rod Cathcart, & Joe Barry

Board Members absent: June Haines

Meeting called to order: 7:02 pm

Secretary's Report: Approval of Spring General Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Kelly Litton, second by Martie King; Motion carried

There were 37 people in attendance including the board members who were present.

Treasurer's report: \$2371.89 in checking account

\$2300 has been raised by the association.

- The city grants the rest of the communication fund by the number of tax lots.
- All neighborhood associations have been asked to cut 10% from this fund, but then an additional 15% was cut.

New version of the mailer card was approved by a verbal vote. (The new card has less info, but is quicker to read.)

It was noted that some neighborhood associations will be holding only one meeting per year. Our bylaws were changed to say that one meeting per year is required, but that we could continue to hold two meetings as decided by the board. Cost for each meeting is \$60 for the school gymnasium rental and a \$20 scheduling fee. We book both meetings at one time.

Speakers:

Lt. Gary Decker – Sheriff's Office, a 17 yr veteran.

Crime trends – down on major crimes this past year, but crimes of opportunity are increasing. (Cars unlocked, mail theft, census bureau scam, internet fraud, phishing scams, check scams all up. Meth labs are way down, so meth is coming from Mexico. The costs are higher so heroin use is increasing.) There are lots of drugs on our hwys. The 14th citizen's academy is ongoing. It is a 10 week course, 1 night per week. About 45 people are participating. There is opportunity for firearms training, and an emergency driver (vehicle handling) course.

The Shop-with-a-Cop program helped 101 kids last year. Partner with the FAN network and schools. Phillips Administration donating \$10,000 to help out with the program this year. The kids get to shop at Walmart for themselves and family and friends and enjoy a meal at McDonalds while experiencing a positive interaction with law enforcement.

Project Lifesaver is new program that offers safety bracelets to at risk people, so that they can be tracked and found if they wander away. The cost is \$300 one time and then \$10 per month for the battery change.

A neighborhood member asked about the homeless camps in and around town. (There was a recent double murder.) The Sheriff's can only enforce the laws. Right now they can camp for up to two weeks at a time. They can't do much about them camping on private property. If they move them out, the campers will just move to a different area. It is better to go through city officials and county govt. – write letters to them, not the Sheriff.

Question about how to start a neighborhood watch – brochures were on the table, and info from the Sheriff.

Copy Program – Children of Incarcerated Parents. A Sheriff's rep tries to find a mentor for the kids. They have helped about 12 kids this year. This gives the kids some stability in life.

There are shredding events in Bend, Sisters, Lapine, Terrebonne – Secure Shred, and Data Delete sponsor twice per year with no cost to the public. Usually canned food is donated as a payment for the service. This helps the food banks. Meds can also be turned in to the same program.

Question about how to get involved with Search and Rescue - Sgt. Shelton with Search and Rescue can answer that question. Contact the Sheriff's office.

Large animal rescue program – trying to find places for horses to care for them. Work crews put in over 2000 hours of labor for a large animal rescue area on county land. There are 30 pens etc. Sheriff Blanton started this.

Question about graffiti and gangs – some lower level tagging around the area, but no real crimes involved yet. It is not being ignored by officials. Schools are not yet concerned with gangs. Juvenile community service cleans up the tagging.

Second Speaker:

Jim Clinton – city councilor. Speaking about city govt. All Oregon cities have a charter. Must change to change the way things work in the city. The city manager is responsible. Councilors get \$200 per month to do policy making. Day to day dealings are done by city employees. City councilors can fire the city manager if necessary. Email is the best way to communicate with the councilors.

The city is a couple million dollars per year operation. The business side – water dept., sewer dept., expenses funded by bills. The other side if the general fund – from taxes. This funds the police, fire (majority). Money coming in is not enough for all of the requirements right now, so therefore some services are being cut.

Building/planning/engineering depts. These have been large over the past five years when we had up to 82,000 residents. There were 57 employees two years ago, now there are 18 in building, from 27 to 13 in planning, and 16 to 2 in engineering.

Deschutes county unemployment rate is 14.9% currently. Building houses and tourism were our main economic drivers, which have now fallen off. Building permits were down 90% this year. Example – Putnam Point has 11 condos on the top floor, 1 has sold, but 10 are up for auction at half the price. The Bulletin prints the number of permits in the paper each week for your information.

Question about how the city plans to bring jobs to the area. Airport and Juniper Ridge were mentioned – Suterra, Les Schwab, Pacific Power moving to the area. Small businesses are still having trouble getting financing.

Question about city relationship with Chamber of Commerce. Mentioned as a good relationship, on an improving trend. City is in the business of water, fire, police, and the Chamber is possibly too ideological. Oregon ranks 46-47 in public university support. Trying to get more University presence in Oregon. There are 200 acres in Juniper Ridge that can be devoted to higher education. This is a longer term time frame item.

Local improvement district can be formed to put in sewers in neighborhoods that don't have them. Having a main sewer line nearby keeps costs down. Stimulus funding is continuously sought by the city for these types of projects.

More Agenda Items:

- Fire Free Program – ½ price yard waste recycling from Oct 31st to Nov 15th.
- Smart Reader Program, Neighborhood Watch, ADA getting ramps around the city, Good Samaritan signs to shovel sidewalks, fire hydrants, and mailboxes.
- City Edition is the city news on TV, YouTube and Facebook.
- Rewriting telecom utility ordinance.
- BAT – Bend Area Transit still trying to get the transit center going.
- Brookwood Plaza – The Rim Coffee House Co. is applying for an on premises liquor license. It is across from a daycare and near a school. These are some concerns that were raised.
- Infrastructure First Petition is on the back table. Trying to get the city to do infrastructure before allowing development.
- Become a neighborhood member. It is free.

Statements:

A group of eight is picking up trash on Brookwood from Powers to Baker Road. The HOA and DR Horton are no longer cleaning up the medians on Brookwood. Carol Billingsley is asking for more volunteers for this endeavor.

Looking for volunteers to clean and pull weeds next spring. Weeds are blocking the bus stop area and sidewalk near Powers.

Kate Applegate asked if Powers and Brookwood will get a 4-way stop sign? It will most likely get a round-about sooner or later when funding is available.

Murphy Crossing has \$25 million set aside for the overpass at the south end of town of town. The area up to Powers is an Urban Growth Renewal District – from Pinebrook to Ponderosa and along the hwy. About 80 acres. The overpass will get started in 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37.